GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3545
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008
REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a regulatory authority for biotechnology to govern developments in the segment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time frame by which the authority is likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT(KAPIL SIBAL)

(a), (b) & (c) The Government of India is in the process of setting up of a regulatory authority for biotechnology, product and processes. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology has been entrusted to act as the nodal agency to establish "National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority" (NBRA) through an act of parliament. Accordingly, a consultative group of experts have prepared draft establishment plan of NBRA and the proposed Bill. Both the draft documents were put in public domain for review and comments. Several consultative meetings were held with concerned stakeholders representing farmers and consumer's organizations, industry, legal experts, media and academia /scientists from research institutions/universities.State Governments were also consulted for their feedback. An Interdisciplinary and Inter-ministerial Advisory Committee was also constituted to oversee and advise on all matters related to drafting, reviewing the comments of experts and stakeholders as well as preparing final documents.The governmental process of inter-ministerial consultation has been initiated for obtaining necessary approvals for the NBR Bill by the Cabinet and subsequently the Parliament as per procedure expectedly by the end of the financial year 2008-2009.